

Message Text

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FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL AND MIKE KELLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, OVIP (BELL, GRIFFIN)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM TERRENCE ADAMSON: QUOTE:

1. TO JUDGE BELL: PRESIDENT CARTER DISCLOSED ON JULY 19
THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO SEND HIS LAW ENFORCEMENT
REORGANIZATION PLAN TO CONGRESS UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR.
THE PLAN INCLUDES BORDER MANAGEMENT AND IMMIGRATION POLICY
REORGANIZATION, ALONG WITH THE SHIFT OF ATF TO JUSTICE.

2. TO MIKE KELLY: EXCERPTS FROM BABCOCK STORY:
"A FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY INDICTED JOSEPH
P. TONELLI, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED PAPERWORKERS
INTERNATIONAL UNION, ON A CHARGE OF EMBEZZLING \$360,000
IN UNION FUNDS. THE EMBEZZLED FUNDS, ACCORDING TO THE
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INDICTMENT, INCLUDED DOLLARS 50,000 PAID TO TWO ATLANTA
LAWYERS, IRWIN W. STOLZ JR. AND W. HOMER DRAKE JR. THE
LAWYERS, BOTH PERSONAL FRIENDS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN
B. BELL, ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION BY FEDERAL PROSECUTORS FOR
POSSIBLE 'OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE' IN THE TONELLI CASE.
IN JANUARY, STOLZ AND DRAKE MADE AN ATTEMPT TO APPROACH
BELL ON TONELLI'S BEHALF.

"STOLZ, WHO WAS APPOINTED TO THE GEORGIA STATE COURT OF APPEALS IN 1972 BY THEN GOV. JIMMY CARTER, SAID IN A PHONE INTERVIEW FROM ATLANTA YESTERDAY THAT HE, DRAKE AND THEIR FIRM -- SWIFT, CURRIE, MCGHEE AND HIERES -- HAD DONE 'NOTHING ILLEGAL, UNETHICAL OR IMPROPER' IN REPRESENTING THE UNION OR ANY OF ITS OFFICERS.

"HE INSISTED THAT THE FIRM HAD BEEN RETAINED BY THE UNION FOR LABOR LAW CASES -- AN ARGUMENT THE GRAND JURY REJECTED IN CHARGING TONELLI. AND HE SAID THE APPROACH HE AND DRAKE MADE TO BELL'S OFFICE 'HAS BEEN ACCEPTED PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.'

"A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE TWO ATLANTA ATTORNEYS 'DROPPED IN' TO BELL'S OFFICE ON JANUARY 18 TO COMPLAIN TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT TONELLI WAS BEING HARASSED BY THE BROOKLYN PROSECUTORS.

"THEY SPOKE TO J. MICHAEL KELLY, BELL'S COUNSELOR AND 'DOORKEEPER,' AND LEFT A LETTER FROM TONELLI TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"STOLZ AND DRAKE DID NOT SEE BELL THAT DAY, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, BECAUSE IT IS DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE TO REFER SUCH COMPLAINTS TO THE PROPER DIVISION. 'IT'S A WASTE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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TIME FOR THE JUDGE IF HE HASN'T BEEN BRIEFED ON THE CASE,' SPOKESMAN TERRENCE ADAMSON SAID.

"KELLY SENT THE COMPLAINT TO BENJAMIN R. CIVILETTI, THEN HEAD OF THE CRIMINAL DIVISION AND ACTING DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL. CIVILETTI SAID IN A RECENT INTERVIEW THAT HE GOT A LETTER FROM DRAKE ON FEB. 6 AND WROTE BACK FEB 9, SAYING TONELLI WOULD BE TREATED FAIRLY, JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE UNDER INVESTIGATION.

"CIVILETTI SAID IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR DEFENSE ATTORNEYS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT PRESECUTORS, BUT ADDED THAT HE DID NOT BEGIN FORMAL INQUIRY BECAUSE DRAKE NEVER MADE ANY SPECIFIC CHARGE.

"STOLZ SAID IN AN EARLIER INTERVIEW THAT HE AND DRAKE WENT TO BELL'S OFFICE BECAUSE 'IT SEEMED TO BE THE BEST PLACE TO START.'

"STOLZ AND DRAKE, A FORMER FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY JUDGE, HAVE KNOWN BELL AND HIS CLOSE AIDES FOR YEARS. STOLZ SAID HE ALSO WAS 'AN OLD FRIEND' OF PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT SAID

HE AND DRAKE MADE NO APPROACHES TO THE WHITE HOUSE OR ANYWHERE ELSE ON TONELLI'S BEHALF.

"THE FIRM HASN'T BEEN PAID FOR REPRESENTING TONELLI, STOLZ SAID.

"HE SAID HE HAD BEEN BEFORE THE GRAND JURY IN BROOKLYN, BUT WOULD BE 'STUPEFIED' IF HE BECAME A TARGET OF THE INVESTIGATION. STOLZ SUGGESTED THAT THE PROSECUTORS MIGHT BE LOOKING AT HIM AND DRAKE TO 'EMBARRASS AND HARASS' US FOR MAKING THE APPROACH TO BELL'S OFFICE.

"IF THAT'S A CRIMINAL OFFENSE, HALF THE LAWYERS IN TOWN WOULD BE IN JAIL," HE SAID." CHRISTOPHER
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